

BARNSTAPLE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of Finance & General Purposes Committee

Monday 22nd March 2021 at 7.00pm By Video Conference Call.

Present: Councillors:

Cllr J Phillips (Chair), V Monk, A Windsor, J Carter, J Wilsher, A Rennles, L York, J Coates & J Orange.

In attendance:

Mr Robert Ward (Town Clerk),

S Petters (Assistant Town Clerk)

Members of the Public:0

58. Apologies for absence

Apologies and reasons for absence were received and approved from V Elkins, I Roome (work) and V Nel (work) (NC).

59. Dispensations and Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Cllrs J Phillips, L York and J Orange as members of North Devon District Council, have a dispensation under SO66 to discuss and vote on any item on the agenda unless the item refers to a financial or legal agreement or dispute between the two authorities.

60. Minutes of the last meeting

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meeting held on 25th February 2021, are approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. (NC)

61. Budget Monitoring Report

Cllr Coates requested to know why there is a significant overspend in nominal code 9000. The Town Clerk explained that this is where the spend for the new compound and the grounds maintenance equipment has been allocated to help with tracking the expenditure.

RESOLVED: To note the budget monitoring report (NC)

62. Community Grants for the financial year 2021-22

RESOLVED: to approve the following (NC)

- The community grants totalling £17,240 as detailed in the Table of Recommended Grants (Appendix 1).
- £4,760 of the total fund that has not been allocated to be retained for applications that could be received at other times in the financial year.
- To note that the decision to not recommended a grant or for a sum less than the amount requested is based on the published grants criteria and a majority vote of the councillors present at the working group meeting held on 15th February 2021. Where requested feedback will be given to applicants.

- An allocation of £8,000 to One Northern Devon from the Strategic Community Fund to continue the delivery of the Community Development role for One Barnstaple for the year starting 1st April 2021

63. Proposed Fees & Charges for the St John’s Community Centre

The committee approved the following fees for the year 2021-22

Commercial Rate	Community Rate
£15.00	£12.00

RESOLVED: To adopt the rates for the year 2021-22 and to delegate to the Chairman and Town Clerk to develop terms of hire including the need for deposits and caretaking of the building. (NC)

64. CCLA Public Sector Deposit Fund negative yields update.

RESOLVED: To note the report from CCLA that due to Bank of England base rates being at an all-time low of 0.25% there is the potential for a negative yield on the Town Council funds currently invested in the Public Sector Deposit Fund. The Town Clerk explained that the PSDF provides the Town Council with security for its reserves because it spreads the fund across multiple AAA rated institutions (NC)

65. Urgent works needed to Barum House

RESOLVED: To note that urgent works are needed to repair a leak in the roof at Barum House, these works are expected to cost in the region of £1,000 (NC)

66. Absence of press and public

RESOLVED: That the following matter shall be taken in the absence of the press and public, in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960, as the item contains exempt information as defined by Standing Order 82a. (NC)

67. Arrangement for Grass Cutting in North Road.

The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council will be undertaking grounds maintenance work on piece of land that is in the ownership of one of the staff members, this has come about due to the Town Council taking over the highway verges grounds maintenance. It was an arrangement that was in place with the previous contractor.

RESOLVED: to note the arrangement (NC)

Meeting closed at 7.45pm.

Chairman.

Signed:

Dated:

APPENDIX ONE

Table of Recommended Grants				
	Organisation	Granted 2020	Amount Requested	Amount Approved
1	North Devon Down Syndrome Group	600	750	750
2	Families in Grief (FIG)	1300	1600	800
3	Barnstaple Ability FC (Adults, 16+)	0	750	750
4	Barnstaple Ability FC (Youth Team)	750	1000	1000
5	Age Concern Barnstaple & District Association	500	1000	1000
6	North Devon Family Carers	0	300	300
7	Go North Devon Ltd	2000	2000	1000
8	Barnstaple Pilot Gig Club CIO	0	2852	500
9	Abbey Gateway Club	700	1000	1000
10	Clarity	0	3600	1440
11	North Devon Voluntary Services (NDVS)	1000	1000	1000
12	Barnstaple Fair Carnival	0	1000	0
13	Tarka Child Contact Centre	500	1000	1000
14	Pathfield Activities Club (PAC)	750	1000	750
15	Barnstaple Disabled Fellowship Club	0	750	750
16	Care for Kids North Devon	500	2000	1000
17	Citizens Advice Torridge, North, Mid and West Devon	2500	2500	2500
18	Barnstaple Memory Café	500	500	500
19	Northern Devon Foodbank - Barnstaple	1000	1000	1000
20	Barnstaple Concert Band	300	200	200
	Standing Grants:			
	Barnstaple Lions	1000	3727	1000
	Freedom Centre (Freedom Community Alliance)	1750	2000	1750
	Barnstaple Twinning Association	400	500	500
	Strategic Community Fund:			
	One Northern Devon			8000